

REMARKS

Applicant has amended this application in response to the Office Action. Claim 1 has been amended to require that the third stage gear reduction includes a differential gear set. The *Fjallstrom* reference does not include a differential gear set. While the Examiner has rejected claims including the differential gear set, none of the references relied upon by the Examiner include a differential gear set. Further, there would be no reason to modify *Fjallstrom* to include a differential gear set. Thus, claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 5 has been amended to require that there be a planetary gear set as the second stage gear reduction. While the Examiner argues that *Fjallstrom* includes a planetary gear set as provided by sun gear 7, the Examiner also requires that the *Fjallstrom* planet gears 6 be the third stage gear reduction. Of course, a planetary gear set includes planet gears, and thus *Fjallstrom* cannot be properly read as providing a third stage gear reduction when the element allegedly providing the third stage is part of a planetary gear set. That is, a planetary gear set would already include the gear 6, and thus *Fjallstrom* “second stage gear reduction” does not drive any third stage gear reduction.

Claim 10 is also allowable over the prior art. The Examiner argues that it would be obvious to modify *Fjallstrom* in view of *Brunner, et al.* to place the two electric motors on separate axes. However, the Examiner’s alleged reason, “to provide better space packaging” is not a true benefit. A good deal more space would appear to be required by the *Brunner, et al.* arrangement than was required by the original *Fjallstrom* arrangement.

For similar reasons to those set forth above, dependent claim 6, 13 and the new dependent claims are also patentable.

Claim 17 and its dependent claims further require specific claimed locations for the motors and their associated gears which are simply not shown by the prior art.

For the reasons set forth above, all claims are allowable. An indication of such is solicited.

Also, revised drawings are attached. Reference numerals have been corrected.

Fees for the additional fees are enclosed. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Theodore W. Olds, Reg. No. 33,080
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS
400 W. Maple Rd., Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: May 17, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Amendment related to Application No. 10/630,066, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 17, 2005.


Laura Combs

N:\Clients\MERITOR\Files 1501 to 2000\IP01843\PATENT\Amendment 5-16-05.doc